

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
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3 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
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5 ROMULO H. FLORES, No. C 11-00370 SBA (PR)  
6 Petitioner,  
7  
8 v.  
9  
10 IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION  
11 SERVICE, HOMELAND SECURITY,  
12  
13 Respondents.  
14  
15 /

16 The following background is taken from the Court's February 18, 2011 Order:

17 On January 25, 2011, Petitioner, who is currently being held at Chino State  
18 Prison,<sup>1</sup> filed a document with the Court in the instant case entitled, "Application  
19 for Waiver," which was opened as a civil rights action. He did not pay the filing fee  
20 or file an in forma pauperis (IFP) application. The Clerk of the Court sent him a  
21 notice that he had not filed a complaint or petition, and informed him that if he  
22 intended to commence a new case he must file one within thirty days. The Clerk  
23 also sent Petitioner a notice directing him to pay the filing fee or to file a completed  
24 IFP application, also within thirty days.

25 On February 9, 2011, Petitioner filed a letter indicating that his original  
26 filing was "not a civil lawsuit, nor is it habeas corpus." (Feb. 9, 2011 Letter at 1.) He  
explains that the "INS and Homeland Security has initiated an action against  
[him] for removal proceedings," and that he was "responding to the action they  
initiated." (Id.) It seems that Petitioner is challenging removal proceedings.

(Feb. 18, 2011 Order at 1 (footnote added).) The Court further stated:

27 Here, based on what is alleged in the "Application for Waiver," it appears that the  
28 removal proceedings were ordered as a result of "criminal allegations made against  
him which are still currently under review by the courts in California." (App. for  
Waiver at 2.) The Court assumes that Petitioner means that the removal  
proceedings could have stemmed from his conviction, and that he has commenced a  
collateral challenge to his conviction in the state courts. If this is so, 28 U.S.C.  
§ 1252(a)(2) bars filing a petition for review in the Court of Appeals. The Court  
tentatively determines that if Petitioner filed a habeas petition under § 2241  
challenging the removal proceedings, it would be appropriately filed in this Court,  
subject to reconsideration after briefing if Respondent wishes to challenge that  
point. However, the Court's docket reveals that Petitioner has never filed a federal  
habeas petition challenging the removal proceedings in this or any other federal  
district court. As such, he has no federal habeas corpus petition pending. Without  
an actual petition, this action cannot proceed.

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<sup>1</sup> The Court notes that Chino State Prison is otherwise known as the California Institution for Men in Chino, California.

1 (Id. at 2.) Therefore, Petitioner was directed to file with the Court a § 2241 habeas petition form,  
2 completed in full within thirty days if he "wishe[d] to challenge the removal proceedings . . ." (Id.)

3 On March 14, 2011, Petitioner filed a habeas petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 challenging  
4 removal proceedings. He has paid the \$5.00 filing fee.

5 The Court finds that Petitioner's action must be transferred because jurisdiction does not lie  
6 in this district. Section 2241 allows "the Supreme Court, any justice thereof, the district courts and  
7 any circuit judge" to grant writs of habeas corpus "within their respective jurisdictions." 28 U.S.C.  
8 § 2241(a). The Court has interpreted the "within their respective jurisdictions" language of § 2241  
9 to mean nothing more than that the court issuing the writ must have jurisdiction over the custodian.  
10 Rumsfeld v. Padilla, 542 U.S. 426, 440-442 (2004). As to challenges under section 2241 to present  
11 physical confinement, this is not synonymous with any district in which the respondent is amenable  
12 to service of process. Id. at 442-44. "[F]or core habeas petitions challenging present physical  
13 confinement, jurisdiction lies in only one district: the district of confinement." Id. at 442-43. Here,  
14 as mentioned above, Petitioner is incarcerated at the California Institution for Men in Chino,  
15 California, which lies within the venue of the Eastern Division of the Central District of California.  
16 See 28 U.S.C. § 84. Therefore, the Court ORDERS that the Clerk of the Court shall TRANSFER  
17 this matter to the Eastern Division of the United States District Court for the Central District of  
18 California forthwith. All remaining motions are TERMINATED on this Court's docket as no longer  
19 pending in this district.

20 IT IS SO ORDERED.

21 DATED: 5/13/11

  
22 SAUNDRA BROWN ARMSTRONG  
23 United States District Judge

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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 FOR THE  
3 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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6 ROMULO H. FLORES,

Case Number: CV11-00370 SBA

7 Plaintiff,

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

8 v.

9 INS et al,

10 Defendant.

11 \_\_\_\_\_ /  
12 I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District  
Court, Northern District of California.

13 That on May 16, 2011, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said  
14 copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said  
15 envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle  
located in the Clerk's office.

16  
17 Romulo Hidaldo Flores F61811  
18 Chino State Prison  
19 P.O. Box 600  
Chino, CA 91708

20 Dated: May 16, 2011

21 Richard W. Wiking, Clerk  
By: LISA R CLARK, Deputy Clerk

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